coastal areas in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts in Karnataka State are facing severe sea erosion.

(b) As reported by the Government of Karnataka, 48.26 km long sea wall at different places in the critical reaches at a total cost of about Rs. 5726 lakh has been constructed since 1979-80. During the year 1991-92, Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 0.93 crore was also provided to Government of Karnataka for anti-sea erosion works.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has not sought any specific financial assistance in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. However, the proposals were received from Government of Karnataka for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project and a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(d) No amount has been sanctioned and released to Government of Karnataka during the last three years.

Ancient course of river Saraswati

2225. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a expert committee to trace the ancient course of river Saraswati;

(b) if so, the details of its terms of reference; and

(c) by when this sacred project is going to be completed and what are its budgetary allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources have not set up any expert committee to trace the ancient course of river Saraswati. However, the Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the Central GroundWater Board (CGWB) and the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Mumbai, is engaged in identifying potential pockets for ground water in ancient course of river Saraswati through proper construction of the river course through a multi-disciplinary study. Keeping in view the activities involved in the entire process, it is difficult to fix a time frame for its completion.